



Local Ballot Measure: C

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted.

Argument Against Measure C

Has Pacific Grove's part-time Mayor and City Council earned a **135% pay increase** and CalPERS pension spike? They've done nothing to prevent catastrophic fire risk at George Washington and Rip Van Winkle parks; nothing to stop dangerous erosion along the Ocean Boulevard path; nothing to help prevent frequent power outages.

Other cities with part-time councils prioritize public safety, address dangerous speeding, proactively repair roads, sidewalks, invest in downtown improvements. PG doesn't. Blessed with a cornucopia of tourist dollars and property tax revenue, our Council's stated priority is to raise "council pay."

They're spending \$141,000 of your tax dollars for political consultants to create tax-raising campaigns to pay for increased Council compensation. The city has a \$55 million unfunded pension liability, yet if this measure passes those enrolled in CalPERS - including the Mayor - will receive a pension spike. We'll be paying their pensions long after they leave office. They voted to consider giving themselves Cadillac health coverage. They canceled 17% of Council meetings this year. This November, with district-based elections, each Council member will represent 83% fewer residents. **More money, less work.**

Why spend \$50,000 to hold a costly special election for a single measure? Only 51% of eligible PG voters turned out at the last special election. They're betting concerned residents won't vote. Prove them wrong.

A 135% pay increase, pension spike, and Cadillac health coverage are not necessary to attract candidates to run for these part-time offices. Running in a district with fewer than 2,000 voters is far less expensive than running citywide with 11,000 voters. We'll have more candidates, not fewer.

Council members volunteered to run for office, promised to provide "public service." None complained about the pay. Keep your promise to voters. Provide cost-effective city services that benefit all residents.

Vote NO on Measure C.

/s/ Debby A. Beck, Former Council Member

/s/ Carmelita Garcia, Former Mayor

/s/ Kevin Hanley, Economics Instructor

/s/ Colleen Sarita Quandt, Former Chair Recreation Board

Rebuttal To Argument Against Measure C

In 2025, Council followed the City Charter and state law to increase Council compensation for the first time since 1998, when gas was \$1.20/gallon. In the last 27 years rents have tripled and house prices in Pacific Grove have increased 333%. The \$420/month Councilmembers have been getting for the last 27 years isn't worth as much today.

Let's be clear about how we got here. Council acted according to state law and our City Charter. Because of a referendum, the City is required to place the measure on the ballot - a totally avoidable expense to the taxpayers.

The City placed this measure on the June ballot for a specific purpose: to give prospective council members timely and accurate information about compensation as they consider running for Council.

How does the proposed increase compare to surrounding cities? Marina now pays their councilmembers \$2,000 per month; Seaside \$2,400; Monterey \$950 plus health insurance; and Sand City \$950. All provide higher compensation for their mayors.

Measure C is a straightforward, overdue adjustment for decades of inflation. It adds NO insurance, benefits, pensions, or perks. It acknowledges the critical contribution of those who are willing to serve the community and its residents.

Vote YES on Measure C. It's the sensible choice.

/s/ Bill Kampe, Former Mayor

/s/ Bill Peake, Former Mayor

/s/ Robert Huitt, Former Mayor Pro Tem

/s/ Amy Tomlinson, Former Councilmember

/s/ Don Mothershead, Retired City Employee